

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"—I Samuel VII: 12.



Opening Exercises

of the

Bethel Baptist Institutional Church

Jacksonville, Florida



April 23-30, A. D. 1905



*"Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer*****for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people"*—Isaiah LVI: 7.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord"—Psalm CXXII: 1.

The Bethel Baptist Institutional Church

extend to you and your friends a cordial invitation

to be present at the opening

of their

New House of Worship

April the 23d, through the 30th, A. D. 1905.

J. Milton Waldron, D. D.,

S. M. Dennis,

Pastor.

Clerk:

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple"—Psalm XXVIII: 4.



FRONT VIEW OF
BETHEL BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH
N. W. CORNER HOGAN AND CAROLINE STS.

—◆—
“Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof”—
Psalm XLVIII: 12.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

From the Florida Daily Sun of December 24, 1904.

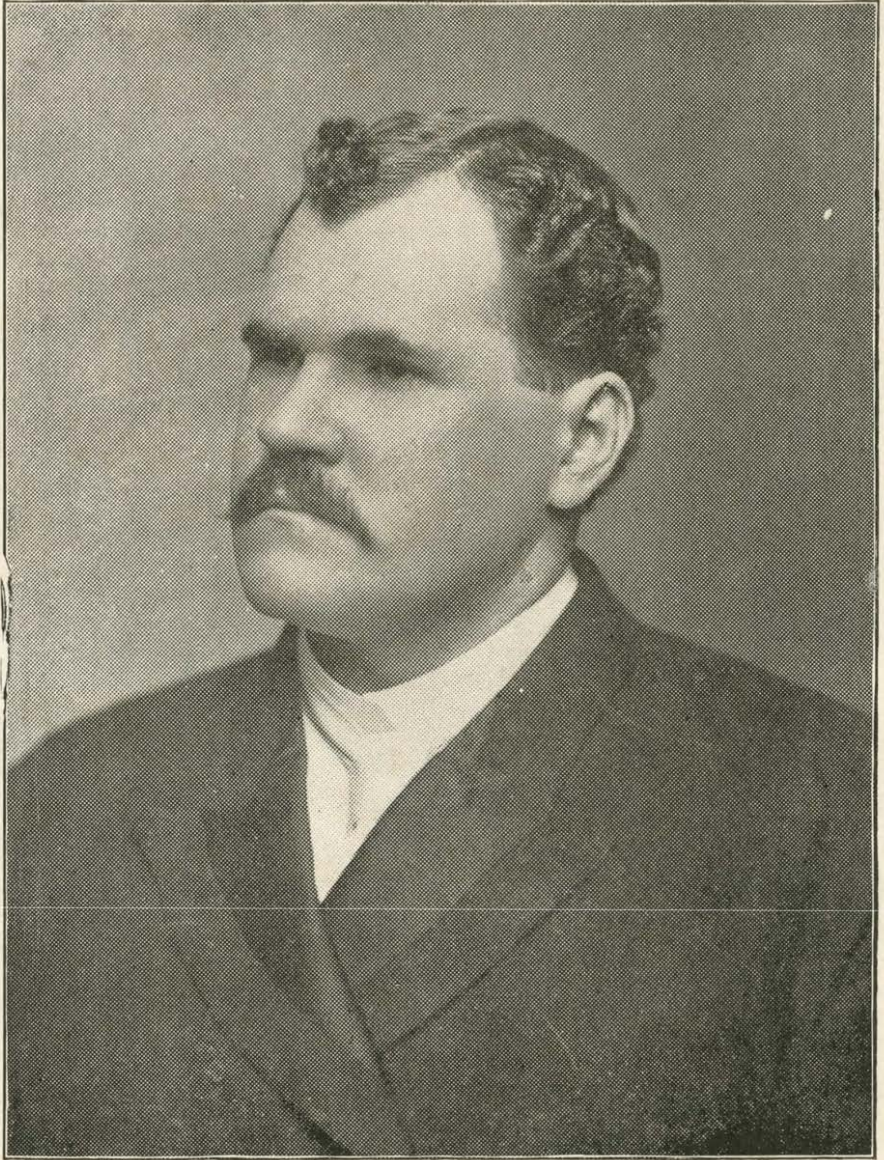
“One of the largest and most attractive church edifices in the city is the building now being erected by the Bethel Institutional Church, on the corner of Hogan and Caroline streets. It is rectangular in shape; its dimensions are 108 x 86½ feet, with a main story and basement, and a main tower on the corner and two smaller towers on Hogan and Caroline streets.”

“The style of architecture is what is commonly known as the composite; on the outside the roof ascends in three gradual and graceful tiers from the lower point of the rear wall to the highest part of the building proper and culminates in a cupola. The main entrances are three in number and are located in the towers. There are three other entrances to the building, so that in case of fire it can be emptied in three or four minutes.”

“The edifice is not only a church but a school house as well; it has been erected so as not only to afford all the needed facilities for an aggressive and up-to-date church and Sunday School, but also to provide ample room for a Bible and Industrial training school. In the main story and in the three towers are six large class rooms and a lecture room in addition to the main auditorium. In the basement are large, well lighted and airy rooms, and here will be located the Kindergarten, Primary School, Young Men’s Baraca Club, dining room, reading room and the library, bath and toilet rooms for men and women, baptismal robing rooms, a print shop, a room for socials and in-door athletic sports and two rooms in which to teach cooking on oil, gas and coal ranges. The entire building will be heated by hot air, generated by two large furnaces; and hot and cold water and lavatories have been placed at convenient points throughout the building. Most of the class rooms, lecture rooms and the main auditorium are divided by roller partitions and sliding doors so that they can be opened into each other if necessity requires.”

“This church is a monument to the Industry, Morality and Religious enterprise of Jacksonville’s colored citizens.”

“What hath God wrought!—Numbers, XXIII: 23.



REV. J. MILTON WALDRON, D. D.,
PASTOR OF BETHEL BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH
SINCE MARCH 1892.

"Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place"—II Chron. VI: 40.

PROGRAMME.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23.

5 A. M.—SUN-RISE PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE,
Led by Senior Deacon, S. M. Dennis.

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee"—Psalm LXIII: 1.

9:30 A. M.—BIBLE SCHOOL; LESSON, *"The Resurrection of Christ"*—
CLASSES ASSIGNED TO THEIR ROOMS.

"The Lord is risen indeed!"—Luke XXIV: 34.

11:00 A. M.—PREACHING AND PUBLIC WORSHIP.

*"O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord
Our Maker"*.—Psalm XCV: 6.

1. Organ Voluntary.
2. Doxology.
3. Responsive Scripture Lesson.—Psalm CXXII. Led by Rev. Prof. J. D. Jackson.
4. Chanting the Lord's Prayer.
5. Scripture Lesson on the Resurrection—Mark XVI, Rev. H. B. Da Coster.
6. The Gloria.
7. Solomon's Dedicatory Prayer. II Chronicles VI: 12-42.
Read by the Pastor.
8. Selection by the Choir.
9. Prayer by Rev. James Johnson.
10. Hymn, by Congregation and Choir—No. 614.

*"Lord of hosts, to thee we raise
Here a house of prayer and praise."*

11. Sermon—Rev. J. Milton Waldron, D. D.
12. Selection by the Choir.
13. Prayer—by Rev. A. L. Pettis.
14. Gathering of the thank offering.

"Come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the Lord"—II Chron. XIX: 31.

15. Hymn—Choir and Congregation, No. 612.

"Spirit divine, attend our prayer
And make this house thy home."

BENEDICTION.



3:30 P. M.—BAPTISMAL SERVICE.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature, He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved."—Mark XVI: 15-16.

1. Organ Voluntary.
2. Hymn, No. 531.
"In all my Lord's appointed ways
My journey I'll pursue."
3. Prayer by Rev. W. W. Jones.
4. Selection by Choir.
5. Scripture Lesson—THE BAPTISM OF JESUS—Matt. III.—Rev. C. M. Vought.
6. Hymn, No. 522.
"Come Holy Spirit, Dove Divine,
On these baptismal waters shine."
7. Sermon by Rev. S. N. Vass, D.D.
8. Administration of Baptism to the twenty candidates or more by the pastor.

"We are buried with Him by Baptism into death"—Romans VI: 4.

A. FREE WILL OFFERING.

"And none shall appear before me empty."—Exodus XXXIV: 20.

9. Selection by Choir.
10. Remarks by Revs. C. M. Vought, H. C. Williams, J. H. Newman, E. L. Dozier and J. B. Irwin.

BENEDICTION.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."—Eph. VI: 18 and 19.

7:15 P. M. MEN'S PRAYING BAND.

DEACON E. W. LATSON, LEADER.

The meeting will be held in the Adult Bible Class Room, All Christian men are invited to join this band in praying for the preacher and the preached word.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."—James V: 16.



"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."—I Cor. XV: 20.



7:30 P. M.—EASTER SERVICES.

BY THE BIBLE SCHOOL; Prof. S. P. Robinson, Superintendent.

1. A short song service by School and Congregation.
2. Exercises by scholars.
3. An address to Sunday School scholars, teachers and parents by Rev. S. N. Vass, D. D., Secretary of the American Baptist Publication Society for the Southern States.

EASTER OFFERING FOR THE NEW BUILDING.

4. Remarks, by Rev. W. D. Vann, and Visiting Superintendents.
5. Hymn No. 137—

*"Christ, the Lord, is risen to-day;
Sons of men and angels say."*

BENEDICTION.



PICTURE OF SCHOOL AND CHURCH
BUILDING ERECTED BY BETHEL CHURCH IN 1896, AND BURNED
IN THE GREAT JACKSONVILLE FIRE OF 1901.

This was the first Institutional Church building ever erected in the South by a colored church. It was built of red pressed brick and trimmed with Georgia Marble. The building contained a main auditorium with a seating capacity of 1150, and nine class rooms, and cost \$26,000. It was erected by colored mechanics under the direction of colored contractors, and was at the time of its erection, the most convenient and attractive church building in the city.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"—Psalm CXXXIII: 1.

SOCIAL NIGHT.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 8:30 P. M.

1. Introductory remarks by Deacon S. M. Dennis, Master of Ceremonies.
2. Hymn—"Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian Love."
3. Prayer—Rev. T. H. Ward.
4. Scripture Lesson—Psalm CXXXV—Rev. Prof. J. D. Jackson.
5. Selection by the Choir.
6. Address by Rev. J. S. Todd, D. D.
7. Solo—Mr. Sidney Woodward.
8. Address by Rev. S. A. Williams.
9. Solo—Mr. William Reed.
10. Address by Rev. L. B. Ellerson, A. M.
11. Selection by the Choir.
12. Address by Rev. S. N. Vass, D. D.
13. Hymn—"Home, Sweet Home."
14. Remarks by Revs. H. C. Williams, C. M. Vought, E. L. Dozier, J. Gardner Ross and J. H. Newman.
15. Closing Hymn—"God be with you till we meet again."

BENEDICTION.

Refreshments will be served in the dining room at the close of the literary programme.

ADMISSION TO THESE EXERCISES, INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS 25 CTS.

"My tongue shall talk of thy righteousness."—Psalm LXXI: 24.

MEMBERS NIGHT.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 7:30 P. M.

An opportunity will be given the members and friends of the church at this meeting to express their thanks unto God for giving us a house of worship.

THE PASTOR WILL BE ASSISTED IN THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING BY REVS. J. D. JACKSON AND H. B. DACOSTER.

There will be special music and Mr. H. E. Robinson will preside at the organ.

AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE NEW BUILDING.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake after one to another; and the Lord harkened and heard it."—Malchi III: 16.

B. Y. P. U. NIGHT.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 8:00 P. M.

"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." Lam. III: 27.



1. Organ Voluntary—Miss Fannie Ambrose.
2. Meeting called to order and introductory remarks by President Edward Long.
3. Hymn by Congregation.
4. Invocation—Mr. C. Williams.
5. Solo—Miss Bertha Long.
6. Responsive Scripture Lesson—Psalm XIX.—Miss Isabell Latson.
7. Duet—Little Misses Nettie Truett and Annie Perry.
8. Reading B. Y. P. U. Pledge—Leader, Miss Lillie Thomas.
9. Chorus by the church choir—Messrs. Sidney Woodward and S. S. Reddick, Directors.
10. Remarks by Professor S. P. Robinson.
11. Solo—Mrs. Ruth Perry.
12. Address—Rev. Dr. J. T. Docking, President Cookman Institute.
13. Solo—Mr. William Reed.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING.

It is requested that those who attend, make a special effort to give a large contribution for the new building.

1. Remarks by Visitors.
2. Notices and announcements.
3. Selection by the Church Choir.

BENEDICTION BY THE PASTOR.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." I Cor, XVI: 13.

"Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people".—II Samuel X: 12.

BARACA NIGHT.



THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 8:00 P. M.

1. Meeting called to order by President W. P. McAlpin.
2. Singing—"Stand up, stand up for Jesus
Ye soldiers of the Cross."
3. Invocation—Mr. Edward Long.
4. "The Baraca Class and Its Work."—by Prof. J. D. Jackson.
5. Chorus by the Baraca Boys.
6. Remarks by Mr. H. W. James, M. D.
7. Some of the achievements of the Baraca Class."—Mr. Wm. A. Shields.
8. Singing by the Congregation.
9. Address by Rev. J. B. Hankerson, D. D., Pastor, of the Baptist Church of Tallahassee, Fla.

SILVER OFFERING FOR THE NEW BUILDING.

1. Singing—"Take the name of Jesus with you."
2. Presentation of Class Banner by Mr. T. G. Freeland, M. D.
3. Response by Standard Bearer—Mr. Geo. Baker.
4. Solo—Mr. William Reed.

BENEDICTION.

Class colors, Purple and Gold. No. of Members 110.

"So will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing."—Zechariah, VIII:13.

*"Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women*****
not a few."*—Acts XVII: 12.

WOMAN'S NIGHT.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 8:00 P. M.

1. Meeting called to order by leader, Mrs. M. M. Waldron.
2. Hymn, by Congregation.
3. Prayer—Mrs. S. M. Dennnis.
4. Responsive Scripture Lesson, Psalm CIII.
(Selection 8)—Mrs. Anna L. Brown.
5. Singing by lady members of Choir of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church.
6. Address by Mrs. J. M. Sams, representing "The Young Mother's Club."
7. Address—Mrs. E. W. Robinson, representing "The Orphanage Association".
8. Music by lady members of Choir of Ebenezer M. E. Church.
9. Address—Mrs. S. Boyce, representing "The Phillis Wheatly Circle".
10. Music by ladies from Choir of Central Baptist Church.
11. Address—Mrs. J. W. Ward, representing "The M. E. C. Smith Club".
12. Address—Miss Eartha M. White, representing "The Protective League".
13. Music by ladies from Choir of St. Paul A. M. E. Church.
14. Address by Miss Sarah A. Blocker, representing The Florida Baptist College.
15. Music by ladies from Choir of Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church.
16. Recitation by Miss Celestine Cook.

OFFERING.

17. Notices.
18. Closing hymn.
BENEDICTION by Mrs. Amy DeCoursey.
Organist and Pianist, Mrs. M. B. McLendon.

"O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."—Psalm XCV: 6.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30,

- 5:00 A. M.—SUN-RISE PRAYER MEETING—Deacon A. H. Hudson, Leader.
- 9:30 A. M.—BIBLE SCHOOL—Prof. S. P. Robinson, Superintendent.

11:00 A. M.—PREACHING AND PUBLIC WORSHIP—Sermon by the Pastor.

Revs. James Johnson, H. B. DaCoster, J. D. Jackson, January Nobles, John Jameson, T. H. Ward will assist in the conduct of the public worship.

3:30 P. M.—EDUCATIONAL MEETING—Under the direction of The Florida Baptist College, the President, Prof. N. W. Collier, A.M. will preside, and the teachers and students will furnish the program which will consist of special music by "The Florida Baptist Quartette." Address, papers, etc. by several of the teachers.

7:45 P. M.—THE MEN'S PRAYING BAND—Deacon E. W. Latson, Leader.

8:00 P. M.—EVANGELISTIC SERVICES, with special music by Choir and Song Service by Church and Choir.

Sermon by Rev. J. Milton Waldron, D. D.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved".—Acts, XVI: 31.



"Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation".—Joel I: 3.

HISTORY.

The Bethel Baptist Institutional Church of Jacksonville, Florida, was organized in July A. D. 1838, under the title of Bethel Baptist Church. "Elder James McDonald was the first pastor. There were six charter members: Deacon Jas. McDonald and wife, Rev. J. Jaudan and wife, and two colored persons, slaves of Mr. Jaudan. The first meeting place was the Government Block house, which stood near the County Court House. In 1840 the Church purchased the lot on which the McTyeire Memorial Church now stands. Five years later, this property was sold to the Methodists, and the Baptists removed to Lavilla, where they remained for about five years, when it was thought best to secure a more central location. Deacon Jaudan purchased a lot on Church street, between Hogan and Julia and gave it to the Church, upon which a meeting house was erected, and the congregation entered the new building in the spring of 1861. During the Civil War the church was used as a hospital by the Federal troops, and left greatly damaged."

At the close of the Civil War the white members of the church went into court and endeavored to disposses their colored brethren and sisters of the church property and name, but as the colored members were in the majority the court decided that they were the "Bethel Baptist Church" and the rightful owners of the property of said church.

A short while after this the Bethel Baptist Church sold the property on Church Street between Hogan and Julia streets to their white brethren, and purchased a lot on the N. W. Corner of Main and Union streets, and erected thereon in 1868 the one-room frame building which is shown on the last page of cover of this programme. In this edifice the church continued to worship until it was displaced by a large red brick structure in 1895. This second church house was erected at a cost of \$26,000.00 and was occupied by the church until its destruction by fire, May 3, 1901.

On November 16, 1894, The Bethel Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida was incorporated by the State of Florida as an Institutional Church with authority to carry on Social Betterment and Industrial Training work, A Bible Institute and a Publishing and Tract Repository Department, in addition to the regular work of a Missionary Baptist Church.

In order to meet the present needs of the work of the Church and provide for its future growth the Church purchased in 1903 the "River's block", bounded by Hogan, Eagle, Julia and Caroline Sts., and erected thereon the Institutional Church building which it enters for the first time today, April 23, 1905.

"Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you."—I Samuel XII: 24.



"A good man showeth favor and lendeth".—Psalm CXII : 5.

A STATEMENT.

The Trustees of the church will require \$2,500.00 within thirty days to settle up all outstanding bills incurred in the erecting the Lord's house, and we earnestly appeal to every member and friend of the church to do what they can to raise this money by the time it is needed.

Those who cannot come in person and bring their offering for this work, may send it to the TREASURER OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD, MR. E. W. LATSON, CARE OF P. O. BOX 617, JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

"Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy in thy land."—Deut. XV: 11.

HOW did my heart rejoice to hear
My friends devoutly say,
"In Zion let us all appear,
And keep the solemn day!"

I love her gates, I love the road;
The Church, adorned with grace,
Stands like a palace, built for God,
To show his milder face.

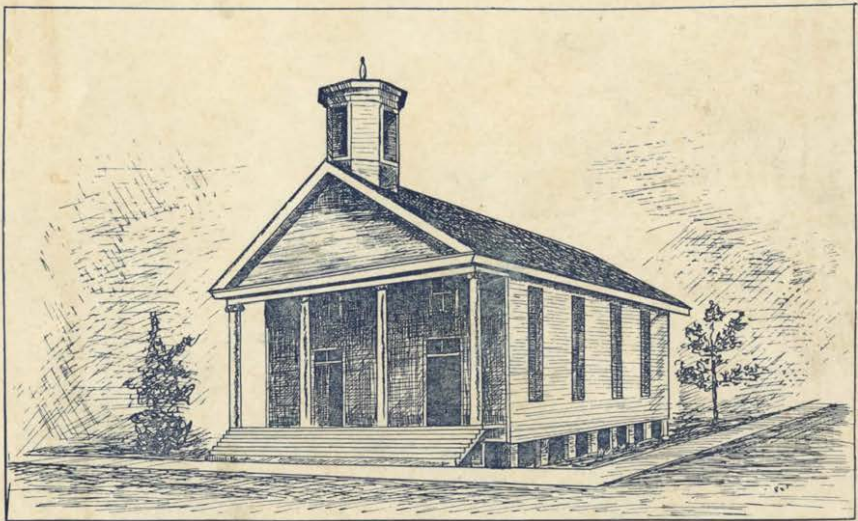
Up to her courts, with joys unknown,
The holy tribes repair;
The Son of David holds his throne,
And sits in judgment there.

He hears our praises and complaints;
And, while his awful voice
Divides the sinners from the saints,
We tremble and rejoice.

Peace be within this sacred place,
And joy a constant guest!
With holy gifts and heavenly grace
Be her attendants blest!

My soul shall pray for Zion still,
While life or breath remains:
There my best friends, my kindred, dwell;
There God, my Savior reigns.

Watts.



BUILT IN 1868, TORN DOWN IN 1895.